

## OBITUARY

Donald E. Hudson, the sixth President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, died in Pasadena, California on 14 April 1999 at the age of 83. He served as Professor of Engineering at the California Institute of Technology from 1942 and became Professor Emeritus in 1981. He then became the Fred Champion Professor of Civil Engineering and Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Southern California from 1981 to 1985. He returned to Caltech in 1985. Professor Hudson was active in earthquake engineering research and published numerous papers; he was instrumental in developing the first multi-unit building vibration generator with precise frequency controls; he headed the project of analyzing all strong motion accelerograms – digitizing the data, computing velocity, displacement and response spectra and publishing the results in a multi-volume set of books in the 1970s. In the 1960s he developed an electric analog analyzer for computing response spectra and also developed the seismoscope which has been installed in many countries. He co-authored with George Housner two textbooks on Applied Mechanics and co-authored with Donald Jephcott the book *Performance of Public School Plants During the San Fernando Earthquake*. He was a longtime member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Seismological Society of America, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute and the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, and was active in promoting earthquake safety. In 1989, the American Society of Civil Engineers awarded the Nathan M. Newmark Medal to Professor Hudson. During his academic career he supervised many Ph.D. students who are now active in earthquake engineering both in the United States and foreign countries. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 1973. He was a true pioneer in earthquake engineering.

George W. Housner